

What is... an Attractor?

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Abstract

In the study of dynamical systems, a set toward which points in a given system tend are called *attractors*. Attractors come up in the the study of a variety of different types of systems, including pendulums, atmospheric convection, and fluid motion. We will give some history of the study of dynamics as a field and give some definitions for an understanding of dynamical systems. In addition, we will formally define attractors and do some calculations for several different types of attractors.